**Diction for Singers – Lynda Boltz**

1. What is it? Clear, strong consonants and appropriate vowels, sung with rhythmic accuracy.
2. Practice good diction at all times:
   1. Warmups and exercises, such as:
      1. PO TU LA BE DO MI NE (with open Latin vowels and clear consonants; differentiate between voiced and unvoiced consonants.
      2. I-o exercise: so mi fa re mi do re ti do on vowels only, then repeat with various initial consonants. Ti to, di do, even shi sho, OR fun ones such as “chee-to”, “fri-to”, Ne-mo”. Keep going lower by half steps. (Richard Miller – STRUCTURE OF SINGING).
   2. Tongue Twisters (see sheet) These came from the Choral Public Domain Library online (copyright free).
   3. Student-written Tongue Twisters (see sheet) Having them create these is a good way to help sections to “bond”; also example of Collaborative Learning (21st Century Skill); AND top of the (revised) Bloom’s Taxonomy pyramid – CREATE!
3. Examples of repertoire which are particularly effective in calling attention to clear diction:
   1. Any ballad or “One Tin Soldier”
   2. “Double Trouble” from HARRY POTTER AND THE PRISONER OF AZKABAN.
   3. “Drunken Sailor” – arr. Emily Crocker, 2-part (Jenson/Hal Leonard).
   4. Any Broadway theatre song (I am using “Matchmaker” and “If I Were a Rich Man” from FIDDLER with my 7th graders.
   5. Anything in other languages (“Kyrie” – Schubert; “Da Pacem Domine” in red Choral Music book, Level 1).
   6. Songs using various dialects or languages within the same song (JOSEPH: “Benjamin Calypso” – A. L. Webber).
   7. Anything funny (SEE attached version of 3 blind mice)
4. Writing things on the board which are the “madlibs” versions of spoken words:
   1. Wooden shoe ugh ree
   2. …and Doctor Miller threw some muddy water…
   3. Anything you hear them say or sing!
5. Danger Words
   1. Words with “r’s”
   2. Words with diphthongs
   3. Words with more than one consonant or consonant blends
   4. Anything they cannot remember always to sing in the appropriate way
6. Model your own clear diction (example from “Camelot”), as well as your own (my E. Tx drawl) AND funny stuff (“Adelaide’s Lament from GUYS AND DOLLS).
7. CD’s, DVD’s, television, concerts
8. Record and playback; critique!